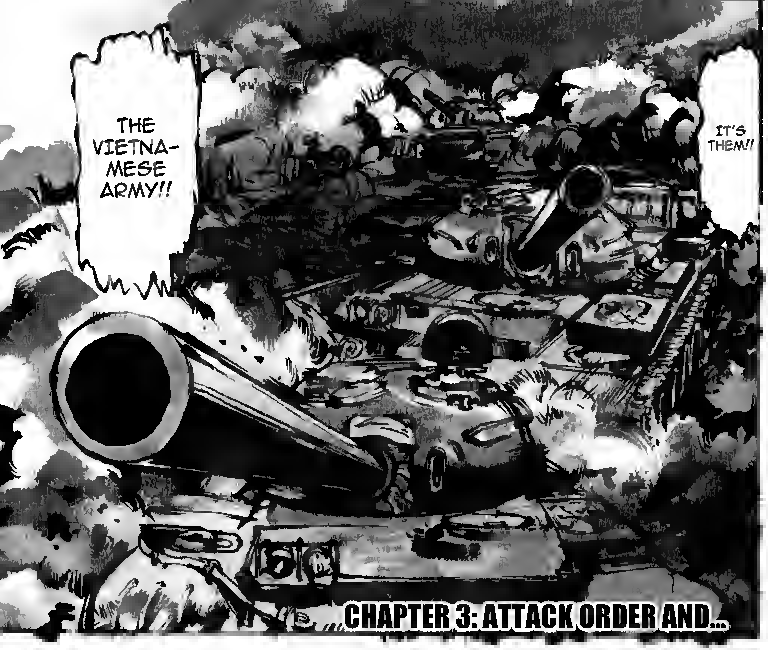

CHAPTER 3: ATTACK ORDER AND...

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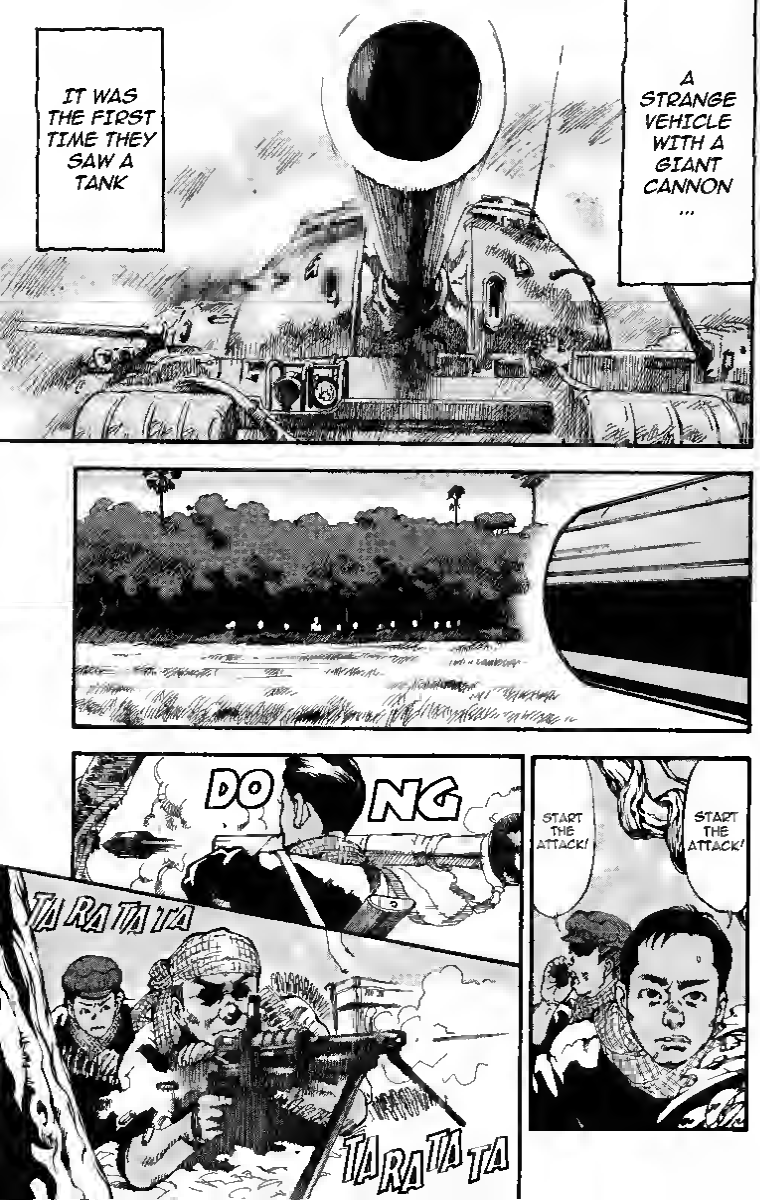
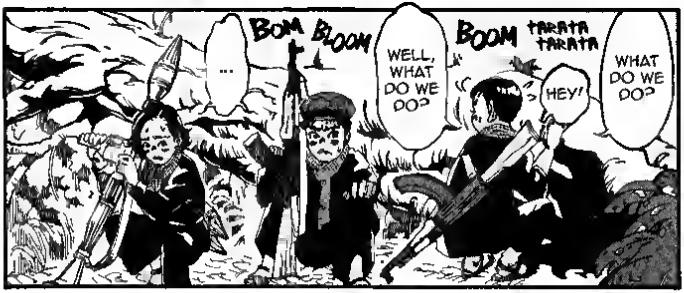
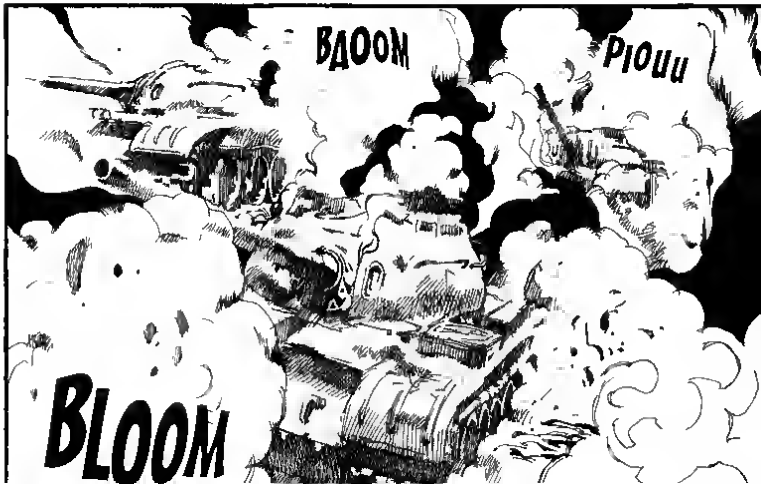

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY SAW A TANK
A STRANGE VEHICLE WITH A GIANT CANNON ...
DO NG
TA RA TA TA
TA RA TA TA
START THE ATTACK!
START THE ATTACK!

SHLING

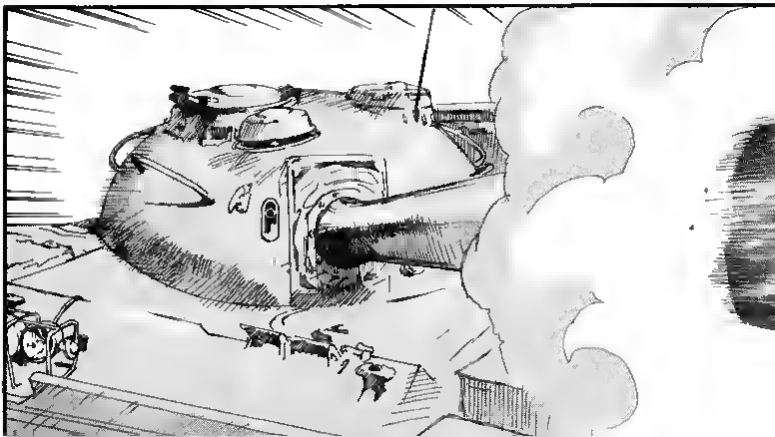

BOM BLOOM
...
WELL, WHAT DO WE DO?
BOOM
TARATA TARATA
HEY!
WHAT DO WE DO?


BDOOM
PIOUU
BLOOM

THEY ARE?
EVERYBODY IS GOING IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!
WORD IS WE BEAT THE VIETNAMESE'S STRANGE CARS!
THEY'RE NOT MOVING
POY! WAIT!
I'M GOING TOO!

!
SSSSSS
TAC

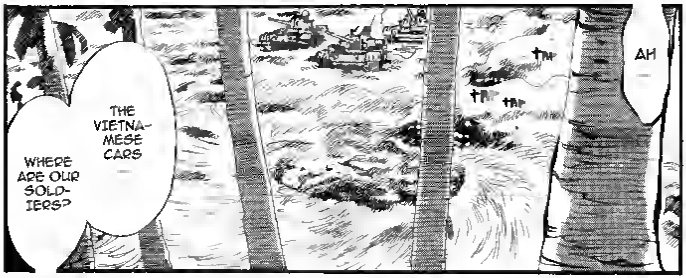
Chop!



BLOOOM
!!
BO
DOM
BLOOOM
BLOOOM

BLOOOM BLOM
...
I'LL BE BACK VERY SOON!
...
NANA, YOU STAY HERE!
DAN
AKI RA?
THE NOISE STOPPED
WHAT ARE THEY ALL DOING?

TAP
TA TAP


AH
THE VIETNAMESE CARS
WHERE ARE OUR SOLDIERS?

GIVE UP!
YOU'RE SURROUNDED!
ZAH
DON'T MOVE!

POF

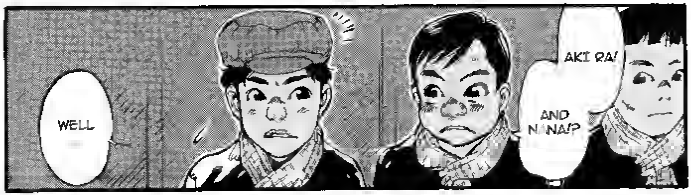
I THOUGHT SO
THAT STORY WAS JUST A LIE

VIETNAMESE?

NANA
RUN AWAY!

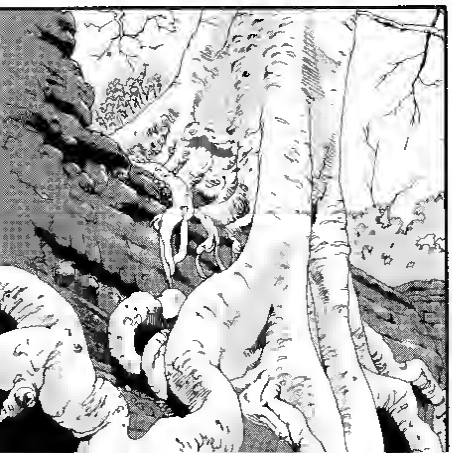
AKI RA SAW ONE OF HIS ELDERS
THE MOST FRIGHTENING MAN HE EVER MET...
!!
...
TAC
WELL?
DON'T STOP!
AKI RA
AH!
GET IN THAT TRUCK!

HAAN, JEN AND TAAN ARE DEAD
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS


AKI RA!
AND NINA!?
WELL

BE QUIET!
AT LEAST I HOPE SO

WE WERE WELL HIDDEN I DON'T THINK ANYONE COULD HAVE FOUND HER
SHE PROBABLY MET UP WITH ANOTHER UNIT OF THE PARTY



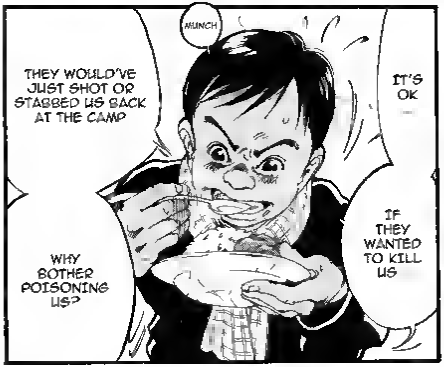
VIET-NAM-ESE ARMY CAMP
WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH US?
HMM
...
GET IN HERE!
AND DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE!
GLAG
Sss...

MAMA?

YOU'RE AWAKE?
EAT!
OH

YES
YOU SPEAK MY LANGUAGE
ARE YOU CAMBO-DIAN?
SHE DIED YEARS AGO
WHY DID I TAKE HER FOR MY MOM?
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?
...
WHY ARE YOU WEARING THE VIETNAM-ESE ARMY UNIFORM?
THEN
YOU'RE A PRISONER TOO?
CLAC
EAT QUICK-LY
OKAY?

IT'S NOT POISONED?
HOW DO WE KNOW


MUNCH
THEY WOULD'VE JUST SHOT OR STABBED US BACK AT THE CAMP
IT'S OK
IF THEY WANTED TO KILL US
WHY BOTHER POISONING US?

BUT
BOY! YOU ALREADY STARTED!?
MUNCH MUNCH

AT THAT MOMENT
AKI RA REMEMBERED THE DEATH OF HIS FATHER A STORY HE WAS TOLD
EAT, AKI RA!

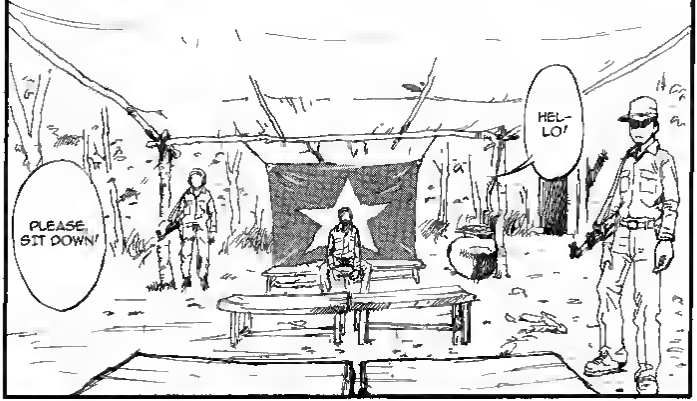
HE'S RIGHT!
THAT'S TRUE

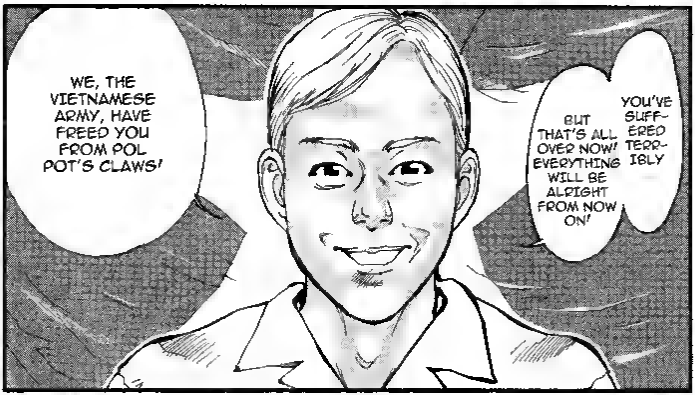
UNDER POL POT'S REGIME, HE WAS FORCED TO WORK
WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A PROPER MEAL
HE FELL ILL BECAUSE OF OVERWORK AND MALNUTRITION, AND WAS HOSPITALIZED
BUT UN-FOR-TUNA-TLY
THE INTEL-LECTUALS OF WHOM THE DOCTORS WERE PART OF HAD ALL BEEN EXECUTED UNDER POLITICAL ORDERS
UNABLE TO GET THE CARE HE NEEDED
UNTIL ONE MORNING
THE ONLY DOCTORS AT THE HOSPITAL WERE CHILDREN WITHOUT ANY KIND OF EDUCATION
HIS STATE WORSENED

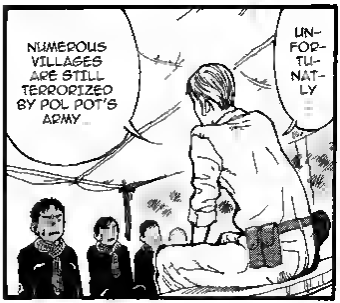
HE SAW A HOT AND STEAMY BOWL OF SOUP
SET RIGHT WHERE HE COULD SEE AND SMELL IT...
AND WITH-OUT THINK-ING
AKI RA'S DAD DRANK IT IN ONE GO
POF
I SAW YOU!
FHH

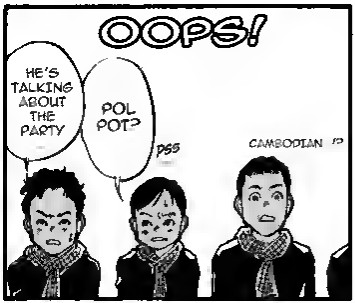
TAKE HIM AWAY!
YOU ATE EVERY-THING!
THAT'S PROOF YOU'RE ACTING SICK AND ARE HERE JUST TO STEAL OUR FOOD!
HE WAS
EXECUTED
THE STORY OF AKI RA'S MOTHER IS EVEN WORSE
EVEN WITH THE NEW LAWS TO HAVE FAMILIES SEPARATED
SHE PUT HERSELF IN DANGER REGULARLY
AND SECRETLY BROUGHT HER SON FOOD
BUT ONE DAY
GGH...
POF

STAY HOPEFUL!
THOSE WORDS...
AKI RA WANTED TO EAT...
BUT THOSE MEMORIES HELD HIM BACK
AKI RA!
GIVE ME YOUR SHARE IF YOU DON'T WANT IT!
"STAY HOPEFUL", CONSIDERED SUBVERSIVE, HAD HER EXECUTED AS WELL
GET OUTSIDE!
THE MAJOR WANTS TO TALK TO YOU!
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, BUT THIS KIND OF ATROCITY WAS A COMMON THING, AN EVERYDAY OCCURENCE

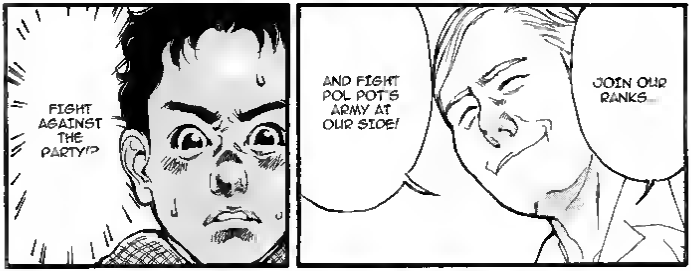

HEL-LO!
PLEASE SIT DOWN!


WE, THE VIETNAMESE ARMY, HAVE FREED YOU FROM POL POT'S CLAWS!
BUT THAT'S ALL OVER NOW! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALRIGHT FROM NOW ON!
YOU'VE SUFF-ERED TERR-IBLY


NUMEROUS VILLAGES ARE STILL TERRORIZED BY POL POT'S ARMY...
UN-FOR-TU-NAT-LY...

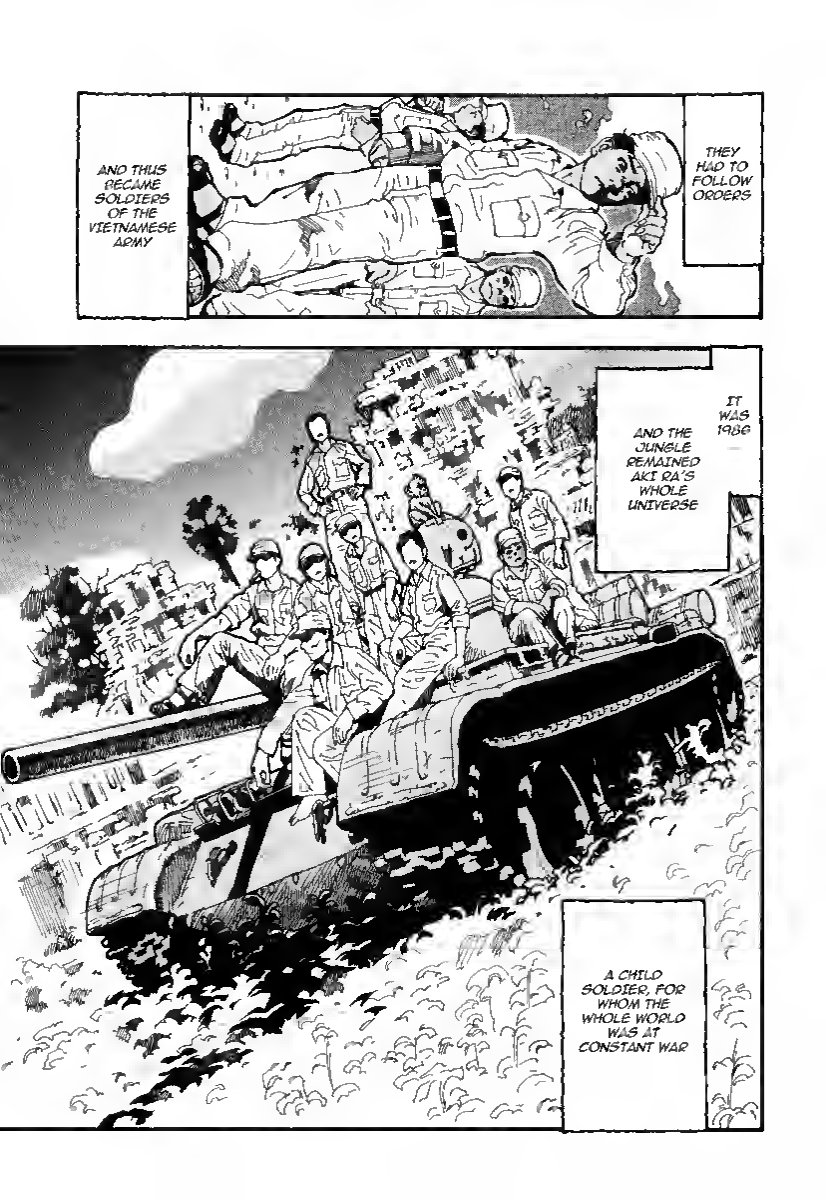

OOPS!
HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE PARTY
POL POT?
PSS
CAMBODIAN

I'D LIKE YOU TO HELP US LIBERATE THEM
TO BE HONEST
AND IN THOSE VILLAGES, THERE ARE MANY CHILDREN JUST LIKE YOU, RIGHT?


FIGHT AGAINST THE PARTY!?
AND FIGHT POL POT'S ARMY AT OUR SIDE!
JOIN OUR RANKS...

THE VIETNAMESE ARMY, HATED ENEMY, SUDDENLY BECAME A LOVED SAVIOR
HERE, YOU WILL HAVE DECENT MEALS
WE'RE DIFFERENT FROM POL POT'S ARMY
THE PARTY, WHICH WAS ALL THEY KNEW SUDDENLY SEEMED FILLED WITH HEARTLESS ASSASSINS
YOU'LL RECEIVE BONUSES
THIS SUDDEN DISCOVERY LEFT THEM SPEECHLESS
DEPENDING ON YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS YOU CAN EVEN BE PROMOTED

TO CONSIDER YOU AS OUR ENEMIES
WE WOULD BE FORCED
CLAC
IF, HOWEVER
BUT
YOU CHOOSE TO REFUSE THIS PROPO-SITION
POG
WHAT WILL IT BE?
THE DECISION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE FOR THEM
ONCE AGAIN, THEY WERE LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE


AND THUS BECAME SOLDIERS OF THE VIETNAMESE ARMY
THEY HAD TO FOLLOW ORDERS
IT WAS 1986
AND THE JUNGLE REMAINED AKI RA'S WHOLE UNIVERSE
A CHILD SOLDIER, FOR WHOM THE WHOLE WORLD WAS AT CONSTANT WAR

MITSURIN SHOONEN

WELL, THIS MARKS THE END OF CHAPTER 3.
I HOPE YOU'RE ALL ENJOYING READING
THIS AS MUCH AS I AM WORKING ON IT!

- MOE

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